

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP75-001

FEB 27 1967

CIA THREAT TO STUDENT IS CHARGED

Forged Mental Record
Allegedly Used To
Force Silence

Washington, Feb. 26 (UPI)—Michael Wood, who revealed the Central Intelligence Agency's financial support of the National Student Association, charged today that the CIA threatened to forge psychiatric records to discredit a student officer.

He said the threat was one of various moves by the CIA to pressure officers into silence.

Eugene Groves, president of the student group, said, however, he was unaware of the alleged incident.

Wood, former director of development in charge of fund raising, declined to reveal the source of his information, or the target of the alleged forgery threat "for obvious personal reasons."

3-Way Interview

Wood made the accusation during a three-way interview in which he was joined by Groves and student vice president for international affairs, Richard Stearns.

The three appeared on the ABC radio-television program "Issues and Answers."

Wood's charges ran counter to the view of Groves and Stearns that the CIA—although its support may have resulted in some subtle influence on students' overseas activities—did not exercise any direct influence on the group's policy.

In a joint statement yesterday twelve former presidents of the group said CIA support never impaired the association's independence in matters of principle. And they described as "arrant nonsense" any suggestion they had been duped or trapped into accepting CIA aid.

Senator Jackson
Senator Jackson, (D., Wash.), said today that the CIA-student alliance in the 1950's was a strikingly successful anti-Communist move and would have been impossible without the secrecy with which it was carried out.

Jackson said that the success could not have been achieved without working "through some of the more liberal, even leftist, groups." He reasoned that open support of such groups by the State Department or United States Information Agency would have been impossible at that time because of the virulent anti-Communist atmosphere being generated by the late Senator Joseph R. McCarthy, (R., Wis.)

Jackson spoke on the Metromedia television-radio program "Opinion in the Capital."

Asked what the CIA had received in return for its support of the students, Stearns said it got "a complex of institutions" presenting an alternative to the Communist representation at international student meetings, and "secondly, they got intelligence."

Grove said the group is now seeking new financial backing from foundations which are not connected with the CIA.

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